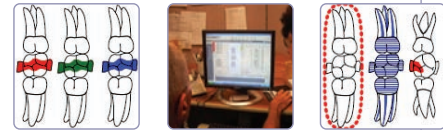# Integrated Medical and Dental Electronic Health Record (EHR)

AHLTA Dental
Connecting the Oral Cavity Back the to the Body

Increasing evidence shows oral health affects a person's overall health. For the first time in U.S. military history, dental providers can electronically document patients' dental care, dental readiness and workload.

Benefits

- Provides transparency of real-time health information across medical and dental providers
- Meets a common healthcare objective
- Improves patient safety
- Improves clinical decision-making
- Improves patient outcomes through prevention, early detection, and proper intervention
- Provides accurate, thorough, and legible documentation
- Reduces medical and dental errors
- Establishes a single consolidated Tri-Service Dental record
- Allows viewing diagnoses and planned and completed dental treatments via color-coded graphical display
- Captures workload while documenting
- Calculates dental readiness automatically

Challenges

- Transition from Service-unique paper dental record to a single DoD EHR
- Successful adoption and integration of the EHR in the military Dental community
- Speed, reliability, user interface, and data integrity
- Usability of the current AHLTA product
- Enterprise solutions for Service-specific Dental business management systems
- Dental digital radiology integration
- Implementation of AHLTA Dental capability into the Theater of Operations

Communication

- External relations
  - National Conference forums: demonstrations and presentations
  - Military Health System Media Room and website
  - Feature articles and news releases
- Resource Centers
  - Army, Navy, and Air Force AHLTA web portals
  - Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians
- Military Dental Functional Collaboration
  - Identify and prioritize enhancements for next software release
  - Develop templates for treatment entries and satisfy Service specific needs
- Service Implementation Guidance to standardize the policy and procedures associated with forms ingestion and files management

Training Approach

Effective training is critical to the successful adoption of the electronic health record. Customized training programs have been developed to meet the specific and unique needs of the specialized Dental user community.

- Web-Based Training
  - Interactive 15-Lesson series
- On-site Team-Based Training
  - Classroom Training
  - On-the-job Training during Patient Care
  - Dedicated Deployment Operations team coordinates all site preparation
  - Comprehensive AHLTA Dental User's Manual
  - Functionality and clinical workflow instruction
- Sustainment Training

Updated Capabilities and Enhancements

AHLTA is the DoD's enterprise-wide health information management system that provides secure access to the Service Member and beneficiaries' longitudinal electronic health records.

Key AHLTA Capabilities:
- Health History (e.g. allergies, labs, problem list, previous encounters)
- Laboratory, Radiology, Pharmacy and Consults Order Entry, and Results Retrieval
- Preventive Health Maintenance (e.g. immunization)
- Productivity and Health Surveillance Reports
- Basic Clinical Decision Support

Key AHLTA Dental Capabilities:
- Graphical Dental charting
  - Pre-existing status, defective, planned, and completed procedures
- Automated documentation for:
  - Exams and forensic charting
  - Prophylaxis and risk factor assessment
  - Endodontic evaluation and treatment
  - Comprehensive periodontal charting and treatment
  - Prosthodontic evaluation and treatment
  - High Caries risk protocol
- Automated dental readiness classification
- Automated workload calculation

"Ten years down the road, the most dramatic change in practice will be the use of electronic records and the computerization of the dental practice."
– Dr. Joel Glover, chair of the ADA National Health Information Infrastructure Task Force and 14th District trustee (1/2007)

New Features

Quick navigation using AHLTA's new menu, tool bar, or tabs.

Printed Standard Form 603-A

Dental Charting Legend:
- Red: Diagnoses or defective procedures
- Green: Planned treatment
- Blue: Pre-existing conditions or completed procedures

Graphical charting in AHLTA provides a simple means to quickly assess the patient's oral condition.

Health History view is customizable, displaying the patient's health problems, allergies, vital signs, medications, and previous encounters.
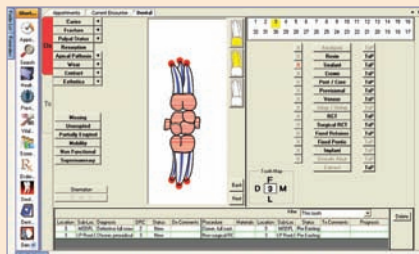

Figure 1: "Big Tooth" View
Select individual tooth surfaces for charting diagnoses, pre-existing conditions, defective procedures, and planned treatments.
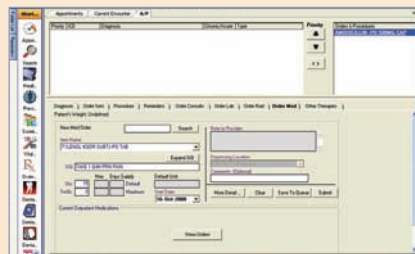

Figure 2: Order Entry Medications
Efficiently order medications. All prescriptions are screened for allergies, duplicate orders, and drug-drug interactions with medications prescribed by military, Veterans' Health Administration (VA), and TRICARE network providers in the private sector.
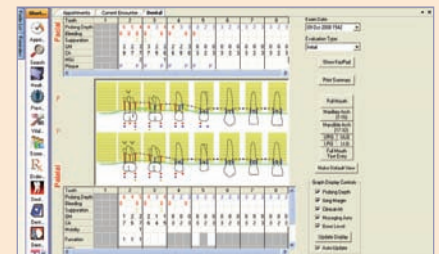

Figure 3: Periodontal Charting
Comprehensive, full mouth graphical view that provides an excellent printable summary of periodontal findings for the patient and consulting periodontal specialist.